

*Texas Speleological Association*  
**COLORADO BEND STATE PARK CAVE & KARST SURVEY PROJECT**  
**2014–2015 Project Volunteer Information**

*Welcome to the CBSP-TSA Cave and Karst Project!*

*In order to be as happy, safe, and productive as possible, here are some things you need to know.*

**Project Dates:** The Project dates are the weekend of the second Saturday each month, except summer months. The 2014–2015 dates are:

<b>October 17–19 *</b>	<b>November 7–9</b>	<b>December 12–14</b>	<b>January 9–11</b>
<b>February 13–15</b>	<b>March 13–15</b>	<b>April 10–12</b>	<b>May 8–10</b>

\*October 17-19 is the 3rd weekend of the month because of the Texas Cavers' Reunion on October 10-12.

There is also a possibility of a trip in June 2015, join the mailing list for updates and announcements. You may arrive and camp Friday night, or arrive by 9:30 a.m. on Saturday. Please contact the Project leaders ahead of time if you are bringing a group larger than 4.

**Location:** CBSP is located along the Colorado River in San Saba County. Follow Highway 580 west for 1/2 hour from the town of Lampasas to the small community of Bend (general store for last-minute supplies). Soon after crossing the river, turn left onto County Road 442 (paved at first but becoming fairly well maintained gravel). Keep to the right at forks and on the main road, avoiding turn-offs to fishing camps. Watch for the brown with yellow letters "Colorado Bend State Park" sign and cattle guard. Upon entering the Park boundary (3.6 miles from Bend), continue 350 ft past the cattle guard to the gravel pull-out on the right. Drive through the green gate in the cedar post fence, close the gate behind you. Follow the rough "road" 1/3 mile to the central fire circle, and camp in the woods anywhere around it. Do not camp in anything resembling a roadway, blocking vehicle access to out-of-the-way tent sites. The TSA camping area, Caver Camp, is in a closed area of the park. Do not enter the gate directly behind the CBSP Welcome sign, that is private property. We will sign in at the fire circle around 9:30 a.m. Saturday morning and assign teams before heading out.

**Project Rules:** We must respect the State Park's rules. Read the Park Rules and Regulations at:

[http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/parkinfo/rules\\_and\\_regulations/](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/parkinfo/rules_and_regulations/)

There are additional rules for Caver Camp and Project Teams in order to maintain good relations with Texas Parks and Wildlife. Those rules are thus:

- 1) **Take home all your trash** (including empties from around the fire pit) and clean up after yourself.
- 2) **No fire during burn bans.** Know if the park is in a burn ban before starting the fire. No other ground fires are allowed, just the main campfire.
- 3) A \$2 per person fee is collected when you sign in Saturday morning for the TSA Project. The fee helps cover some of the costs associated with photocopying, map supplies, survey gear, etc. No other fees are involved, and camping for Project volunteers in Caver Camp is free.
- 4) **All participants on project weekends are expected to work.** Cave cartography, surface surveying, digging, etc. are all needed. Team leaders will be assigned less experienced people for training. **All teams leave camp by 10 a.m. Saturday, so be ready to go by then.** Rescue teams are sent out by 9 pm if your team is not back in camp.
- 5) **Do not cross Park Boundaries.** Trespassing on private property is illegal.
- 6) **Volunteer Permits must be displayed** on your vehicle windshield when your vehicle is not parked in Caver Camp. Park only in CBSP designated parking areas, and not along the roadsides.
- 7) Dogs may be off leash in Caver Camp as long as they are not a problem. Clean up any messes that somebody could step in. **Immediately stop any barking!** Problem dogs may be banned from future

- trips. Leash your pet when you are out of the camping area (Park rule).
- 8) No public consumption of alcohol. Caver Camp is not public, but the rest of the Park is.
  - 9) **Be respectful and don't get rowdy at Caver Camp.** We are here to volunteer time furthering the project and having a good time doing the things we enjoy. Don't mess that up for other.
  - 10) Don't leave paper and crap all over the woods. You must bag and carry out your own waste from Caver Camp. There are compost toilets at the Park Office (at the river) and at the Gorman Falls parking area.
  - 11) After a productive Saturday, you may be allowed to visit many other caves in the Park Saturday night or Sunday. **Clear all Sunday trips with a Project Leader.**
  - 12) Caving on **non-project weekends MUST be coordinated through the Park Office**, and will likely have fees and restrictions associated. Do NOT try to avoid these by claiming to be a caver.
  - 13) All data collected must be turned in to the Project Leaders before leaving the Park. Each team must submit a written trip report before leaving the Park.

**Gear:** Bring water, a tent, sleeping bag and pad, old clothes for caving, a couple of changes of clothing appropriate for the weather, and your food, pots, stove, etc. The temperatures range from the teens in winter to 100s in summer. The group fire is often used for cooking, but not during burn ban. For caving you need hiking boots or work boots with deep lug soles, gloves, old pants, a T-shirt, knee pads, a helmet, a headlamp, and a small pack (such as a fanny pack) with water, extra lights, personal medications, granola bars, etc. Some caves require vertical gear, but if you are vertically trained, you likely have your own equipment. Survey gear can be provided by your team leader or by the Project. If you do not have an adequate helmet or headlamp, contact the Project Leader to arrange a loan. Bicycle helmets and tennis shoes are not adequate for caving.

**Project Leaders:** Kris Peña and Will Quast — [cbsp.tsa@gmail.com](mailto:cbsp.tsa@gmail.com) or 512-704-2525 / 512-608-5162

**Cave Rescue:** Call the Park Office (325-628-3240) FIRST! If no response, call 911.

**Web Site:** <http://www.cavetexas.org/projects/cbsp.html>

**Mailing List:** <https://groups.google.com/d/forum/cbsp-tsa>

**Road Log from Bend, Texas to Cavers' Camp in Colorado Bend State Park:**

<u>Mileage</u>	<u>Cumulative</u>	<u>Comments</u>
0.0	0.0	Stop sign in Bend, junction of County Road 442 and highway 580 at Colorado River. Turn onto 442, left (south) if coming from Lampasas.
0.1	0.1	Cattle guard.
0.2	0.3	Road turns right. Houses and driveways on left.
0.2	0.5	Low water crossing.
0.3	0.8	Road to Barefoot Fishing Camp on left. Keep to right on CR 442.
1.4	2.2	Cattle guard.
0.8	3.0	Cattle guard. Road to Sulphur Springs Camp on left (County Road 446). Keep to right.
0.6	3.6	Cattle guard. Gate and entrance sign for Colorado Bend State Park.
0.2	3.8	Caver Camp. Set up in the woods anywhere around the fire circle.

**Caver Camp GPS locations:**

Caver Camp entrance (green gate): 31.064035° -98.504732°  
 Caver Camp fire ring: 31.062814° -98.508113°